

subspecies inhabiting the contiguous distributional zone of the Colchican Black-capped Jay group.

The new form is named by me on behalf of my old friend Dr. M. Vasvari in honour of Dr. Hans Kumerloeve and Professor Guenther Niethammer:

Garrulus glandarius hansguentheri subsp. nov.

Type: ♀ 8th September, 1877, Tash-Cupri, near Constantinople. Pearce Collection, in British Museum (Natural History). Reg. no. 1886. 12.1.22.

Paratype: ? sex. 1st March, 1947. Cekmece, Korschig Collection in Museum A. Koenig, Bonn.

Other specimens: ♂ 8th September, 1877, Tash-Cupri, Brit. Mus. Nat. Hist.; a moulting adult and four immature, summer, 1963, Mus. A. Koenig.

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On the nest and eggs of the Cape Rook, *Corvus capensis* Lichtenstein, in Ngorongoro, northern Tanzania

by A. M. MORGAN-DAVIES

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The distribution of the Cape Rook in East Africa has been given by Mackworth-Praed & Grant (1957) as southern Sudan to Abyssinia, Eritrea, Somaliland, Uganda and central Kenya. Thomas (1960) records this species nesting in the caldera of Ngorongoro and conjectures it to be a new record for Tanzania. At the time Thomas made his observations, the nests were either empty or contained chicks and no record was obtained of the eggs or a detailed description given of the nest.

During November 1966, I spent ten days on the floor of the caldera of Ngorongoro and collected three complete clutches of this species. The description of the eggs given by Mackworth-Praed & Grant are "salmon pink with purple and lilac blotches, measuring about 40 x 30 mm." Whereas this description probably refers to eggs obtained from the species' northern range, the colour of the eggs obtained from Ngorongoro were more of a very pale pink with brown, purple and lilac blotches. The measurements of nine eggs from three clutches averaged 46 x 30 mm. Clutch sizes were 2, 3 and 4.

Although the nests of this species are basically like those of other Corvidae, they are prominent in the neatness of their construction. The 14 inch bases of the nests are made of rough twigs and coarse grass; above this is a 1 to 1½ inch layer of compacted elephant and/or rhinoceros dung; on top of this is a ¾ inch thick layer of well matted hair (Wildebeest and Thomson's gazelle) and fine grass. The caldera of Ngorongoro has

one of the greatest concentrations of wildlife in East Africa and full advantage is taken by the Cape Rook of this abundant source of suitable nesting material. The inside diameter of the nest-cup is about $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches and the depth about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

In all instances the well concealed nests were located at the terminal ends of the branches of fairly low and thickly foliated *Ficus* trees, and there was no attempt at colonial nesting. In one instance only were two nests found in the same tree. Three of the nests were found in the same trees as those recorded by Thomas and it appears possible that this species, at any rate in Ngorongoro, may use the same nest each year. I was Game Warden at Ngorongoro at the time Thomas made his observations and I would consider there has been an appreciable increase in this species over the past eight years, as has been recorded elsewhere in East Africa by Mackworth-Praed & Grant.

References:

Mackworth-Praed, C. W. and Grant, G. H. B., 1957. *Birds of Eastern and North Eastern Africa*. Longmans Green and Co., London.

Thomas, D. K., 1960. Birds-Notes on Breeding in Tanganyika. *Tanganyika Notes and Records*. No. 55.

Seafowl and land migrants observed on a voyage, London to Capetown, 26th April—12th May 1966

by CHARLES R. S. PITMAN

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GENERAL. The day to day details of this voyage—the only port of call was Las Palmas, Gran Canaria—are with the Royal Naval Bird Watching Society. At this season the main northerly movement of land birds was over and it was not anticipated that other than a few belated stragglers would be seen, possibly the Swallow, *Hirundo rustica* and the Kestrel, *Falco tinnunculus*, off the “bulge” of Africa.

Seafowl were scarce or absent throughout the voyage except for three days (2nd to 4th May) off the “bulge”. North of the Equator the petrels and shearwaters which breed on the Canary and Cape Verde Islands and in the British Isles (Manx Shearwater) had evidently not returned to their breeding grounds, and south of the Equator (and nearing Capetown) the hordes of other species of petrels and shearwaters which would be much in evidence some weeks later were conspicuously absent not having returned from their southern and Antarctic breeding grounds.

Small flocks of distant terns, seen off the “bulge” and the southern African coast, were too far off to identify. Seafowl were most plentiful in the vicinity of the best fishing grounds and most active in the late afternoon. Observations were rarely made between 1400 and 1700 hours.

SHIP'S POSITION. The most rewarding days for viewing seafowl were 2nd, 3rd and 4th May, off the “bulge”, north of the Equator, and 11th May, the day before dawn arrival at Capetown.

2nd May—at noon just south of the Tropic of Cancer, and at 1730 westerly from Cape Blanco.

3rd May—at 1240 passing Cape Verde and Dakar and from 1700—1830 westerly from Portuguese Guinea.